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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Global Forum on Migration and Development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/62/L.25

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 (a) of draft resolution A/62/L.25, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to present, at the Second Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Manila in 2008, an evaluation of the existing cooperation mechanisms on migration and development, in order to promote a coherent discussion of the migration phenomenon.

II. Relationship of the request to the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009

2. The request contained in operative paragraph 1 (a) of the draft resolution relates to: (a) subprogramme 6, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the biennium 2008-2009;[1] and (b) subprogramme 6, Population, of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 9)). The programme of work indicates that activities in the area of migration would be carried out by the Population Division in 2008-2009, and several outputs have been programmed in the area of international migration.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

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3. However, the Global Forum on Migration and Development is a new state-led initiative, which the General Assembly noted with interest in the last preambular paragraph of its resolution 61/208, although it did not provide an express mandate for United Nations support. Moreover, while subprogramme 6, Population, is entrusted with the analytical research on levels, trends, causes and consequences of international migration, it has not been mandated to evaluate cooperation mechanisms of any kind. Therefore, the task envisaged in operative paragraph 1 (a) of draft resolution A/62/L.25 falls outside the scope of the programme of work envisaged under subprogramme 6 of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and would need to be considered as a new and additional activity.

4. The adoption of the draft resolution would result in the following modification in the narrative of subprogramme 6, Population, of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009:

Outputs

At the end of paragraph 9.66 (b) (ii), the following words would be added: "evaluation of the existing cooperation mechanisms on migration and development (1)".

III. Activities by which the request would be implemented and estimated resource requirements

5. It is estimated that an additional $70,000 in consultancy resources would be needed to carry out an evaluation of the existing mechanisms of cooperation on international migration and development. This amount would provide for: (a) specialized expertise, estimated on a basis of six work months at $10,000 a month to undertake the requested evaluation ($60,000); and (b) costs of related travel for consultations with relevant stakeholders ($10,000).

6. It is also estimated that an additional $40,000 would be required to cover the cost of translation and printing of the evaluation report ($35,000), as well as the shipping costs to Manila in order to present and disseminate the report at the Second Meeting of the Global Forum ($5,000).

7. Accordingly, the total estimated costs for carrying out an evaluation of the existing cooperation mechanisms on international migration and development, as requested in draft resolution A/62/L.25, would amount to $110,000 for the biennium 2008-2009.

IV. Potential for absorption

8. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the activities requested under operative paragraph 1 (a) of draft resolution A/62/L.25. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. As the request in the draft resolution calls for a new activity, it is not possible to absorb the additional requirements of $110,000 in full

or in part by drawing on similar research and analysis work, for which resources have been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

V. Action required of the General Assembly

9. **Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/62/L.25, which requests the Secretary-General, in operative paragraph 1 (a), to present at the Second Meeting of the Global Forum, to be held in Manila in 2008, an evaluation of the existing cooperation mechanisms on migration and development, an additional provision amounting to $110,000 (before recosting) would be required over and above the level of resources proposed under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.**

10. **The General Assembly would also be required to approve the proposed modification to the outputs to be incorporated into the programme of work of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under subprogramme 6, Population (A/62/6 (Sect. 9), para. 9.66 (b) (ii)).**